

Nevada Indian Commission
Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV
January 21, 2014

Present: Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission; Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Sherry Ely-Mendes, Chairperson, Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee and Subsidy Program Manager, Children's Cabinet; Stephanie Wyatt, Nevada Early Intervention Services; Theresa Rowe, Education Director, Head Start, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California and Vice-Chairperson, Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee; Cheryl Ewing, Child Care Director, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional, Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Kurt Gee, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) - Region IV, Federal Office of Child Care; Elaine Bender, Education Director, Yerington Paiute Tribe, and Evelyn Dryer, Yerington Paiute Tribe

I. Invocation

A. The invocation was given by Sherry Ely-Mendes.

II. Welcome and Introductions

A. Sherry E. called the meeting to order at 1:10pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

B. Kurt Gee introduced himself to the Committee. Kurt said he has been with the ACF Office of Child Care for 3 ½ years and is now the representative for Region IX which includes Hawaii, Nevada, Arizona and California and he is based out of San Francisco, California. Kurt stated that training and technical assistance funding is available and currently his office is working on implementing on-site training and technical assistance programs with tribes on health and safety and program administration as well as other training topics. Kurt also said child care and early learning programs have fared well in the FY14 Federal budget and funding levels have been restored to pre-sequestration levels for childcare and preschool programs including Head Start. Also, additional funding has been secured for Race to the Top Grants.

III. Initial Public Comment

A. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.

IV. For Possible Action: Approval of October 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes

A. No action was taken on this item as a quorum was not established.

V. For Possible Action: Approval of November 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes

A. No action was taken on this item as a quorum was not established.

VI. For Possible Action: Approval of December 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

A. No action was taken on this item as a quorum was not established.

- VII. For Possible Action: Update on Editing of Tribal Early Childhood Public Awareness Video
- A. Sherry R. reported the Tribal Early Childhood Public Awareness Video should be finished by the end of the week. The video is currently in the editing stage and includes spokespersons from the tribal communities, footage from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Head Start and the tagline “Starting early, is starting right on time.” Sherry R. said she and Sherry E. met at KNPB to help edit the video earlier today and the completed video will be given to this Committee on a DVD as well as on a hard drive.
 - B. Sherry E. added during the editing process, changes were made to speaker titles as well as the sequence of speakers in the video. Also, the video will premiere in March at the Nevada Indian Education Summit at the University of Nevada, Reno.
- VIII. For Possible Action: Update on Tribal Child Care Minimum Quality Standards Template
- A. Sherry E. reported a meeting will be held this afternoon to discuss the tribal child care minimum quality standards template and the meeting will include herself as well as Sherry Rupert, San San Tin and Theresa Rowe. Also, Patti Oya from the Office of Early Care and Education is working on reviewing the template to make sure it complies with basic childcare licensing and Patti has forwarded the licensing checklist to make sure nothing was forgotten. Additionally, there needs to be work done on language and explanations in each area. Sherry E. stated anyone who works in childcare should be able to pick up, understand and use this template. A final draft of the template will be forwarded to this Committee for review and the project should be completed by June.
 - B. Kurt said he would also like to review the template and give any feedback needed. Also, a similar initiative is being taken in California and the work group may be able to share their template with this Committee.
 - C. Sherry E. said this template will aid in improving the licensing process for childcare providers on tribal lands and tribes will be able to adjust this template to meet their individual needs. Educating the public on early childhood education is a very important investment and this will need support of Nevada Tribal Governments to be successful.
 - D. Sherry R. shared that Fredina Drye-Romero from the Nevada Department of Education has an Indian Education School District Task Force who has compiled a k-12 curriculum entitled “History and Contemporary Lifestyles of the Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Washoe and Western Shoshone.” This curriculum could be adapted to early child education and could be a next step or goal for this Committee. Fredina added that other states are adapting their curriculums for inclusion in Head Start and other early childhood education programs and she could definitely help with this project.
- IX. For Possible Action: Continued Planning for the 2014 Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) Track
- A. Sherry R. reported the Nevada Indian Education Summit will be held March 17-18, 2014 at the University of Nevada Reno and the TECAC Committee has been invited to have another TECAC track.
 - B. A survey was sent out to Tribes requesting feedback on what type of trainings would be most beneficial in regard to tribal early childhood education. The top responses included positive interaction and guidance, family and community relationships and health, safety

and nutrition. Possible speakers for these topics include Theresa Rowe from the Washoe Tribe, Lori Schoen from Nevada Early Intervention Services, Carolee Dodge-Francis from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Cindy Johnson from the Office of Early Care and Education.

- C. Sherry R. will follow-up with the confirmed speakers and will work with them on session descriptions. Fredina asked for a list of presenters and session titles as soon as possible for inclusion on the Summit agenda.
- X. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
- A. Sherry R. thanked Fredina Drye-Romero for hosting the History and Language Symposium in January, a collaboration with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Moapa Band of Paiutes. Fredina added this was the first symposium and was a success with over 150 people in attendance.
 - B. Sherry R. announced the 6th Annual Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference will be held April 22-24, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe. The Indian Territory Committee is working with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California on the creation of a tour of Washoe tribal lands and the Indian Territory is working on lining up speakers for the Conference. Sherry R. said Indian Territory is working hard on promoting tribal tourism in Nevada to help tribes become more self-sufficient and economically sound.
 - C. Sherry R. announced the Stewart Father's Day Powwow will be held June 13-15, 2014 at the Stewart Facility. The Stewart Powwow has received grants from the Nevada Commission on Tourism and the Nevada Arts Council for the event and the flyer will be available soon.
 - D. Stephanie Wyatt reported that she and Lori Schoen made a presentation to the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony on a possible MOU to provide their program services to the Colony. Stephanie said the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is willing to work with Nevada Early Intervention Services so they are currently working with their education department on a MOU to present to the Tribal Council for approval.
- XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- A. Sherry said since the group was unable to establish a quorum at the meeting, four sets of meeting minutes will be on the agenda for approval at the next meeting. In the meantime, the Commission will contact all TECAC members before the next meeting to stress the importance of attending the meetings and the quorum requirement.
- XII. Scheduling and Location of Next Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting
- A. The next meeting was scheduled for February 18, 2014 from 1-3pm at the Nevada Indian Commission.
- XIII. Final Public Comments
- A. There were no final public comments made at the meeting.
- XIV. Adjournment
- A. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.